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1737, the insults heaped upon them by the proprietors and the Six Nations in 1742, and the Albany treaty of 1754, into distrust, alienation, and finally the bloody events of 1755 and succeeding years. Toward this end Weiser contributed. He defended the Walking Purchase; he opposed the Moravians and the Quakers in their peaceful efforts; he tried to induce the German voters to turn against their Quaker allies and even appears to have petitioned the English government to declare the Quakers ineligible to the Assembly. He agreed with them as to the necessity of giving large Indian presents and was always trustworthy and judicious in their distribution, but *they* gave for peace and neutrality while *he* wished to give for warlike operations against the French. It was his advice to the Proprietors in 1732 that induced them to recognize the Iroquois claims to the Delaware valley, and so brought on the troubles with the resident Indians. In all the later partisan struggles between governor and assembly, he sided with the war policy of the younger Penns and their deputies in the province. While, therefore, his courage, devotion and honesty were ever at the call of the province, and his unique qualities and experience made his services of the highest value, the limitations of his diplomacy were shown by his failure to retain the friendship of the Pennsylvania Indians as he did the Six Nations.

The story is told most exhaustively by Mr. Walton. The main defect would seem to be a superabundance of detail for the ordinary reader interested in provincial affairs—a detail which sometimes obscures the main features of the history. His sources of information have been the manuscript letters of Conrad Weiser himself and of Richard Peters, and the *Archives* and *Colonial Records* of Pennsylvania. From these he has gathered a great mass of interesting information and has given an intelligible and reliable account. There are a few errors in small matters. Stenton is mentioned as the governor's mansion, and the name of James Logan is repeatedly mentioned for his son William after 1751, when James Logan died. These do not, however, seriously detract from the value of Mr. Walton's work, which will be a permanent contribution of value to our history.

*The Men Who Made the Nation.* An Outline of United States History from 1760 to 1865. By EDWIN ERLE SPARKS, Ph.D. (New York: The Macmillan Co. 1901. Pp. viii, 410.)

THE special student of American history will find little to interest him in this book, which is designed for the "general" and "untrained" reader. Such a design is entirely legitimate. The work of familiarizing the general reader with the history of his own country and of inciting him to further study of that history is as useful and necessary as that of investigation for the benefit of a limited number of specialists.

Dr. Sparks begins with the hypothesis "that at any given period one man will be found who is master of the situation, and events naturally group themselves about him." Starting with Franklin and closing with

Lincoln he constructs an outline of American history by grouping around the names of men whom he chooses as typical of periods in our national development the principal events of such periods. This method of writing the connected history of a country presents two difficulties, neither of which has the author wholly escaped. One is the tendency to write a series of disconnected biographies, and the other, ignoring the hypothesis upon which this book is based, to use the names of the great personalities chosen simply as convenient pegs upon which to hang the events of the eras they represent. In some chapters the man is nearly lost sight of in the narrative of events. In the chapter on Lincoln the great events of the Civil War period receive scant attention in comparison with that bestowed on the character, early life and environment of the man.

There is a danger that a book of this character may lead the general reader into the error of supposing that a few individuals, rather than social, economic and political forces, occasionally directed but never created by single individuals, have made our country what it is. Dr. Sparks tries to guard against this danger by asserting, from time to time, the presence of forces more potent in nation-building than the men to whom he is assigning that great work. When treating of the acquisition of Louisiana in violation of the constitutional scruples of Jefferson he says (p. 239): "Necessity was continuing to make the nation," and again he speaks (p. 277) of "the law of compulsion" as deciding the great constitutional question of the right to undertake internal improvements at federal expense.

With few exceptions excellent judgment has been shown in assigning to events and movements their proper relative position. Controversial questions have been fairly treated, although the author prefers to leave the question as to Webster's honesty of purpose in the Seventh of March speech unanswered. John C. Calhoun might well have been made the subject of a chapter in which the whole question of slavery in American politics could have received adequate treatment, which is lacking in the volume as it now stands. The method of treating men as exponents of particular phases of our national life occasionally leads the author to suppress or ignore important facts. Henry Clay is considered as the father of public improvements. The chapter bearing his name does not mention the great compromises with which he is associated. No mention (pp. 274-275) is made of the United States Bank as an issue in the election of 1832. The reader is left to infer that the attitude of Clay upon the subject of internal improvements was the sufficient cause of his defeat. Accuracy in the statement of facts is the rule throughout the book. An exception may be mentioned (p. 288) where 1840 rather than 1831 is given as the date when the practice of nominations for the presidency by state legislatures began to give way to nominations in national conventions.

The book seems to have been based, and legitimately so, upon secondary sources, except that the narrative is enlivened by many anecdotes, incidents, and specimens of contemporary verse that are taken from original sources. The author has included a large number of well-chosen

reproductions of old and rare prints, of clippings from newspapers, and of title-pages from original editions of important political publications. The English style is admirably adapted to the popular character of the book. It is clear and direct, dignified yet interesting. The proof-reading has been excellent and the printing and binding are what one always expects from the Macmillan Company.

MARSHALL S. BROWN.

*The Frigate Constitution, the Central Figure of the Navy under Sail.*

By IRA N. HOLLIS. (Boston : Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1900. Pp. x, 264.)

*The Monitor and the Navy under Steam.* By FRANK M. BENNETT, Lieutenant U. S. Navy. (Boston : Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1900. Pp. x, 370.)

AMERICAN naval history has recently received a valuable addition in two books lately published. One, *The Frigate Constitution*, by Professor Ira N. Hollis, describes that memorable period of our country's history in which our navy, like all others, was composed of sailing ships, and when its many famous deeds were performed without steam power and by the sole favor of the wind and currents.

The other book by Lieutenant Bennett of our navy entitled *The Monitor and the Navy under Steam* covers the present period, in which the development of steam and armor engrosses public attention ; the *Monitor* marking the opening of that period, in the War of the Rebellion; while the *Indiana* and her type in the fighting against Cervera furnish tangible proofs of the great strides we have made in the forty years intervening.

Professor Hollis's book, *The Frigate Constitution*, has for sub-title "The Central Figure of the Navy under Sail." The history of the navy during the sail period is in a large degree represented by the record of this great ship, whose various achievements form an almost continuous thread running through long periods of our national life.

The author has given us a most interesting book, and one which, while very useful for historical reference, is made especially interesting by the author's correct and pleasing literary style. His deductions and inferences display for the most part logical and exact processes of reasoning, although we cannot agree with his assertion on page 4 that "Before the invention of the telegraph and the steam engine, campaigns were relatively much longer." We have had no great naval wars and campaigns since the later inventions, and there is nothing in the nature of things to make us believe that campaigns or battles will be shorter or longer. This is an affair of men and of nations, and their physical and nervous endurance, rather than of materials and improved mechanics. Fleets, that in the past "dodged" each other by favor of the wind, will do so more easily with steam at their disposal ; we have had an example